

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for monitoring the status of manufacturing products continuously according to one of a plurality of manufacturing processes, comprising:

determining if at least a predetermined manufacturing program out of a plurality of manufacturing programs corresponding to the plurality of manufacturing processes has been executed;

storing the number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing program, when it is determined that the predetermined manufacturing program has been executed; and

outputting the stored number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing program.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises:

a program for determining if the predetermined manufacturing program has been executed, together with the plurality of manufacturing programs, or independently therefrom.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting operation of a certain driving device operated according to the predetermined manufacturing program; and

outputting a predetermined signal, on the basis of which it is determined if the predetermined manufacturing

program has been executed.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the determining step comprises:

a program for determining if the predetermined manufacturing program has been executed, together with the plurality of manufacturing programs, or independently therefrom,

and wherein the storing step comprises:

storing the number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing program, when it is determined that the predetermined manufacturing program has been executed according to the determining program, and determined that the predetermined manufacturing program has been executed on the basis of the output signal.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting the stored number of operations to a communication infrastructure.

6. An apparatus for monitoring the status of manufacturing products continuously according to one of a plurality of processes, comprising:

determination means for determining if at least a predetermined manufacturing program out of a plurality of manufacturing programs corresponding to the plurality of manufacturing processes has been executed;

storage means for storing the number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the

predetermined manufacturing program, when the determination means determines that the predetermined manufacturing program has been executed; and

output means for outputting the number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing program stored in the storage means.

7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the determination means comprises a program for determining if the predetermined manufacturing program has been executed, together with the plurality of manufacturing programs, or independently therefrom.

8. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:  
detection means for detecting operation of a certain driving device operated according to the predetermined manufacturing program, and outputting a predetermined signal,  
and wherein the determination means determines if the predetermined manufacturing program has been executed, on the basis of the signal output from the detection means.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the determination means comprises a program for determining if the predetermined manufacturing program has been executed, together with the plurality of manufacturing programs, or independently therefrom, and wherein the storage means stores the number of operations executed for manufacturing the products according to the predetermined manufacturing

program, when the determination means determines that the predetermined manufacturing program has been executed according to the determining program, and determines that the predetermined manufacturing program has been executed on the basis of the signal output from the detection means.

10. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:

communication means for transmitting the output of the output means to a communication infrastructure, to which the number of operations stored in the storage means is transmitted.

11. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein a license agreement is provided for a property covering the products or a process for manufacturing the products, under the license agreement a licensee of the agreement holding the apparatus for monitoring the status of manufacturing the products, and wherein the monitoring apparatus determines if the products or the process made or used by the licensee is covered by the licensed property, on the basis of operation of the predetermined manufacturing program corresponding to the process for manufacturing the products.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the property to be licensed under the license agreement is at least one of a utility patent, design patent, know how, copy right and technical assistance.